

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /101 W

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R 261110Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9457

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1004

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PINT, CD

SUBJECT: CONOCO AND THE COUP: MILITARY COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

VISITS CONOCO SITE AND ANNOUNCES CONOCO HAS CONFIDENCE OF NEW
GOVERNMENT

REF: N'DJAMENA 864

1. RADIO AND INFOCHAD APRIL 23 ANNOUNCED VISIT OF SUPREME MILK
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT COL DJIME MAMARI TO THE CONOCO DRILLING SITE
NEAR BEBEDJIA IN SOUTHERN CHAD. DJIME ANNOUNCED THAT PUMPING
BEGINNING AT MIANDOUUM 1 AND NEW WELL PROGRESSING AT MIANDOUUM 2, EIGHT
KILOMETERS AWAY. PUMPING IS TO DETERMINE PRESSURE AND EXTENT OF
PETROLEUM DISCOVERED AT MIANDOUUM 1, WHILE MIANDOUUM 2 WILL HELP DETER-
MINE EXTENT OF FIELD. DJIME CAREFUL TO ADD CAUTIONARY NOTE THAT COM-
MERCIAL POTENTIAL OF DISCOVERIES NOT YET DETERMINED AND THAT MUCH WORK
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REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE PROSPECTS CAN BE REALISTICALLY EVALUATED. DJIME ADDED, "IN NAME OF SMC," THAT "TECHNICIANS OF CONOCO HAVE CONFIDENCE OF NEW DIRECTORS OF COUNTRY."

2. FORMER PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE'S PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONOCO AS REASON FOR DISTURBANCES IN TWO WEEKS PRECEDING APRIL 13 COUP AND HIS REFERENCES TO FORTHCOMING "NEGOTIATIONS" ARE STILL GIVEN WEIGHT BY MORE SIMPLISTIC LOCAL OBSERVERS. THESE INCLUDE SOVIET EMBOFF, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO CONSIDERS THAT TOMBALBAYE AND FRENCH BOTH SAW PETROLEUM PROSPECTS WOULD GIVE TOMBALBAYE REGIME FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE OF FRENCH AND THAT THEREFORE FRENCH CONSPIRED OR ACQUIESCED IN COUP.

3. CONOCO CHAD PRESIDENT VOEGELI, IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR SHORTLY AFTER COUP, HOWEVER, DENIED EXPLICITLY THAT THERE WERE ANY IMPORTANT DECISIONS TO BE REACHED OR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN CONOCO AND GOC IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT TOMBALBAYE SIMPLY SEIZED UPON PETROLEUM QUESTION IN ATTEMPT TO RATIONALIZE HIS ACTIONS. VOEGELI HAD FAITH IN HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH TOMBALBAYE AND THAT TOMBALBAYE WOULD BE WILLING STRIKE REASONABLE ACCORD SHOULD PETROLEUM BE FOUND IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES. THIS CAREFULLY NUTURED RELATIONSHIP, ACCORDING VOEGELI, WAS REASON CONOCO RETAINED OPERATING CONTROL OF CONOCO CHAD, ALTHOUGH NOW RETAINING ONLY MINORITY (25 PCT) OWNERSHIP (SHELL 50 PCT, CHEVRON 25 PCT). EMB AGREES GENERALLY WITH VOEGELI CONVICTION REGARDING LACK OF TIE BETWEEN PETROLEUM DISCOVERY AND COUP. WHILE NEW REGIME'S ENDORSEMENT OF PREVIOUS REGIME'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS SHOULD COVER CONOCO FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE NEED TO SET FORTH MORE PRECISELY THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COMPANY AND NATION, NOW THAT PERSONAL BASIS OF ACCORD NO LONGER OPERABLE.
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